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.This books explores the deviations of Ignorance and presents methods to get rid of it

Preface

In the Name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

Is it then the judgment of (the times of) ignorance that they desire? And who is better" (than Allah to judge for a people who are sure? Holy Quran (۵:۵۰

Judgment is of two kinds -the judgment of Allah- the Great and Almighty - and the" judgment of the people of the ignorance (jahiliyah). So, whoever misses Allah's judgment, surely will judge according to the judgment of the people of jahiliyah." (Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (a.s

?What does Jahiliyah mean

Islam calls the pagan life of Arabs `Jahiliyah' (ignorance). This label specifically .۱ identified the lifestyle to be found in the land of the Arabs before the Islamic Mission began. It included the beliefs and customs of the pagan Arabs who lived in a most .decadent and perverse manner

This stage in history was full of chaos and corruption, and witnessed a decline in the

sociology and ideology of the age. This was because the signs of truth had disappeared in that dark historical stage.

The aspects of deviation from truth and justice had become embodied in the society, much in the same manner as the perverse practices of Sodom and Gommorah in the time of Prophet Lot, so that evil was acknowledged as good and good was acknowledged as evil.

۲. Islam calls

p: ۱

this lifestyle of the Arabs desert dwellers, `Jahiliyah', to identify the ideological and social nature of that age and to compare it to general `jahiliyah' of nations and peoples that have arisen during man's evolution. Therefore, where we have written `jahiliyah' with a capital "J" we mean specifically the Age of Ignorance of the Arabs in the pre-Islamic age, and when it is specified with a "j" it refers to global ignorance at any stage in man's evolution where ignorance has buried truth, as is found in our social and ideological values today.

۳. Islam calls that miserable historical period of Arab lifestyle `Jahiliyah' because it is a word which represents ignorant beliefs, practices, rules, laws, customs, values and behavior of a perverse society.

۴. Islam does not call the Arabs, `Jahiliyah', before the emergence of its blessed mission because of academic ignorance, nor does it call them ignorant `jahilin' because of illiteracy nor for backwardness in the areas of sciences, so we understand that `Jahiliyah' had a specific and special meaning.

۵. Islam called the Arabs of that age `jahiliyah' because even in the presence of academic and artistic knowledge, the social manner and behavior of the people and its acceptable lifestyle were such that the word, `Jahiliyah', is suitable for them. The Holy Qur'an has told us about other nations with capabilities in science, engineering, and skills. Still, it regarded them as `jahiliyah' (ignorant).

The Qur'an describes nature as equal among nations of `jahiliyah'. In the Qur'anic .۶ viewpoint, all of these

p: ۲

nations were ignorant. We are able to understand this equality clearly through the comparison which the Qur'an has made between the backward state of Arabs and the .developed state of nations before them

:Allah, the Exalted, says .۷

Have they not then journeyed in the land and seen how was the end of those before" them? They were more (in numbers) than these and greater in strength and in fortifications in the land, but what they earned did not avail them.Then when their messengers came to them with clear arguments, they exulted in what they had with them of knowledge, and there beset them that which they used to mock". Holy Quran ((۴۰:۸۲-۸۳

Have they not travelled in the earth and seen how was the end of those before" them? They were stronger than these in prowess, and dug up the earth, and built on it in greater abundance than these have built on it, and there came to them their messengers with clear arguments; so it was not beseeming for Allah that He should deal with them unjustly, but they dealt unjustly with their own souls. Then evil was the end of those who did evil, because they rejected the communications of Allah and (used to mock them". Holy Quran (۳۰:۹-۱۰

And how many of the generations have We destroyed before them who were better" in respect of goods and outward appearance! Say: (O Our Apostle Muhammad) As for him who remains in error, the Beneficent Allah will surely prolong his length of

p: ۳

days, until they see what they were threatened with, either the punishment or the hour; then they shall know who is in more evil plight and weaker in forces".Holy (Qur'an (۱۹:۷۴-۷۵

In this manner, the Qur'an has revealed the depth and content of those nations to stress that scientific development of man and his civil advancement are not able to save him from the claws of deviation and take him out of the fangs of ignorance as long as he embellishes ignorant faith and embodies the same abnormal ignorant .behavior of the general society

Although these ignorant deviated nations are scattered throughout history and are different in scientific and civil levels, they share common factors. One mental state :combines them together and unifies their deviated course. Allah, the Exalted, says

And those who have no knowledge say: Why does not Allah speak to us or a sign" come to us? Even thus said those before them, the like of what they say; their hearts are all alike. Indeed We have made the communications clear for a people who are (sure". Holy Qur'an (۲:۱۱۸

This similarity among the hearts of the deviated nations and peoples and the unity of the mental trend, which the Qur'an has revealed, is the common line which identifies all aspects of the pre-Islamic period of ignorance and is the center from which all .activities of the ignorant man begins

This similarity is the factor forming the identity and personality of this pre-Islamic nation. Also this description may be applied to all

p: ۴

stages of human history whose generations have evolved into a devious and deviated system and refused to follow the straight path of truth and peace-the straight path of .Allah, the law of the Lord, and the message of salvation

When we examine Islamic texts and phrases about identifying and describing the life of (pre-Islamic period) ignorance, we are able to understand the meaning of the idiom `Jahiliyah' and the reason why the Qur'an has used it. Also we are able to understand .why the same idiom has been applied to other nations throughout history

We are able to understand this terminology and labelling once we learn of the

ignorance in the history of past nations and its connected parts, when we follow the unity of the line and trends which associated `Jahiliyah' through its effects and remains, and when we study the description of the Qur'an about the most important aspects of `Jahiliyah', its ways of thinking, and its psychological and behavioral .trends

When we reach this awareness, we find that `jahiliyah' means error, going astray, deviation from Allah's straight path, and negligence in His worship. That is because `jahiliyah', in the Qur'anic viewpoint, means a religion and lifestyle that follows a line .contrary to the line of Islam in nature and aim

It follows the line of deviation from the path of true religion and Allah's `shari'ah' (law) .which guides man

Jahiliyah' (ignorance) is a way of life. It has its own faith, way of thinking, and lifestyle` including social manners, worship, values

p: ۵

and concepts, viewpoint towards life, method to create civilization, and a direction for human activities in areas such as culture, art, literature, politics, economy, power, law .and order, etc

In order to unveil the ugly face of `jahiliyah' and discover the thread that entwines .۸ current ignorant international thoughts, it is better to return to the Holy Qur'an which describes `Jahiliyah', and its people, and the dimensions of their lifestyle and the .features of their civilization and social system

Also it denotes their general framework and the basic rules of their formation. The :Qur'an says

(And none but the guilty led us astray;" Holy Qur'an (۲۶:۹۹"

And indeed they have led astray many, and do not increase the unjust in aught but" ".error

(Holy Qur'an (۷۱:۲۴

But if they do not answer you, then know that they only follow their low desires; and" who is more erring than he who follows his low desires without any guidance from (Allah? Surely Allah does not guide the unjust people". Holy Qur'an (۲۸:۵۰

But they rejected him, so We delivered him and those with him in the ark..." Holy" (Qur'an (۱۰:۷۳

Then did We raise up after him messengers to their people, so they came to them" with clear arguments, but they would not believe in what they had rejected before; thus it is that We set seals upon the hearts of those who exceed the limits". Holy (Qur'an (۱۰:۷۴

Then did We send up after them Musa and Haroun to Firon and his chiefs with Our" signs, but they showed

p: ۶

(pride and they were a guilty people". Holy Qur'an (۱۰:۷۵

But none believed in Musa except the offspring of his people, on account of the fear" of Firon and their chiefs, lest he should persecute them; and most surely Firon was (lofty in the land; and most surely he was of the extravagant". Holy Qur'an (۱۰:۸۳

They said: O Hud! you have not brought to us any clear argument and we are not" going to desert our gods for your word, and we are not believers in you:". Holy Qur'an ((۱۱:۵۳

Say: O people! if you are in doubt as to my religion, then (know that) I do not serve" (those whom you serve besides Allah but I do serve Allah...". Holy Qur'an (۱۰:۱۰۴

And when he turn,s back, he runs along in the land that he may cause mischief in it" and destroy the tilth and the stock, and Allah does not love mischief-making". Holy (Qur'an (۲:۲۰۵

The life of this world is made to seem fair to those who disbelieve, and they mock“ (those who believe…” Holy Qur'an (٢:٢١٢

And they shall say: O our Lord! Surely we obeyed our leaders and our great men, so“ (they led us astray from the path”. Holy Qur'an (٣٣:۶٧

If we want more clarity about this collapsed civil situation, let's consider carefully .٩ the sermons of Imam Ali (a.s) from Nahjul- Balagha, in which he explains the formation of `Jahiliyah' and analyses the form of its life and faith as follows: “Allah sent Muhammad (saw.) as a warner

p: ٧

against vice) for all the worlds and a trustee of His revelation, while you people of) Arabia were following the worst religion and you resided among rough stones and venomous serpents. You drank dirty water and ate filthy food. You shed blood of each other and cared not for relationship. Idols are fixed among you and sins are clinging to ”.you

Then, he (a.s) speaks about the situations and conditions that preceded the Holy Prophetic mission as follows: “At that time people had fallen into vices whereby the rope of religion had been broken, the pillars of belief had been shaken, principles had been sacrileged, the system had become topsy turvy, openings were narrow, .passages were dark, guidance was unknown and darkness prevailed

Allah, The Most Beneficent, was being disobeyed. Satan was given support and belief had been forsaken. As a result, the pillars of religion fell down, its traces could not be .discerned, its passages had been destroyed and its streets had fallen into decay

People obeyed Satan and tread his paths. They sought water from his watering places. Through them Satan's emblems were flying and his standard was raised in vices which trampled the people under their hoofs, and treaded upon them with their .feet

The vices stood on their toes (in full stature) and the people immersed in them were

astrayed, perplexed, ignorant and seduced as though in a good house with bad neighbors. Instead of sleep they had wakefulness and for antimony they had tears in the eyes. They

p: ٨

were in a land where the learned were bridled (mouths forced shut) while the ignorant ".were honored

:In another place, he (a.s) says

Allah sent the Prophet at a time when the people were going astray in perplexity and" were moving here and there in mischief. Desires had deflected them and self-conceit had swerved them. Extreme ignorance had made them foolish. They were confounded by the unsteadiness of matters and the evils of ignorance. Then the Prophet (saw) did his best in giving them sincere advice, himself trotting on the right ".path and called (them) towards wisdom and good counsel

I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and His Messenger whom He" deputized when the people were collecting in the abyss and moving in bewilderment. The reins of destruction were dragging them and the locks of malice lay fixed on their ".hearts

In another place of his sermons and sayings, we read another analysis of the nature of the ignorant man and his moral and psychological character. Imam Ali (a.s) sheds bright light on the nature of this man in each period and stage and makes these sick .symptoms as distinguishing qualities for the ignorant man and society

Imam Ali (a.s) speaks about evil, deviation and the call of Satan. He (a.s) denotes that :the followers of this call are ignorant

And the followers of fanaticism, the brothers of fanaticism and the horsemen of" ".haughtiness and ignorance proved him (Prophet Muhammad, (saw) to be true

In another speech concerning `Jahiliyah', we read another analysis of

this restless social situation and discover another dimension in its structure. He (a.s) :says

The conditions were full of distress. The hands were scattered. The majority was“ divided. They were in great anguish and under layers of ignorance. They buried their ”.daughters alive, worshipped idols, disregarded kinship and practiced robbery

Imam Ali (a.s) is not satisfied with speaking about `Jahiliyah', analyzing its structure, and discovering the meanings of civilization and life therein. Rather, he warns people :against the bad background of those ignorant thoughts. He says

Do not be like those rude people of `Jahiliyah' who did not exert themselves in“ religion nor use their intellects in the matter of Allah. They are like the breaking of eggs in the nest of a dangerous bird, because their breaking looks bad but keeping ”.them intact would mean production of dangerous young ones

Through contemplating deeply on these Islamic analyses and texts-the verses and sermons-and analyzing their ideas, one will know the features of `Jahiliyah' society, recognize the clearest characteristics of the life in it, and know the most common .elements among the various `jahiliyah' nations

These texts altogether denote that the society of `jahiliyah' is deviated from what is right; it does not follow the teachings of religion, nor it seeks light from its system, nor .it conforms to the principles of its law

Besides, they (the texts and verses) focus on the aspects and the common features among the international beliefs in the attitude towards the Divine Messages, in behavior, and the psychological situation

.of these ignorant beliefs

These ignorant beliefs refuse and doubt the messages of Prophets, and insist on

.disbelief, going astray, and following low desires

The definite result of this rejection is that the refusing person has followed a material, animalistic direction. Thus, lust overcomes him; pleasures lead him, because he has broken off his relation with Allah. So he has inclined to the earth, deified the volatile .world of lust, and worshipped the turns of the self

.It is natural that this material and ignorant life is full of corruption, crimes, and vanity

We have read that the Qur'an describes these ignorant thoughts and noted their diseases and corrupt aspects. The Qur'an has shown the most prominent, sick aspects of those ignorant thoughts as: oppression, crime, haughtiness, extravagance, arrogance, deviation, doubt, corruption and destruction on earth, blood shedding, sneering at truth, blindly following the leaders of deviation and corruption, and .following lusts and low desires

After this Qur'anic discussion, we have read that Imam Ali (a.s) has analyzed the most prominent aspects of `Jahiliyah' life. He (a.s) has stressed those aspects which the .Qur'an has stressed such as: decline, degradation, behavioral and ideological fall

He (a.s) refers to blood shedding, disbelieving in Allah, refusing the messages of the Prophets, ignorance in religion, shaky pillars of religion, going astray, bewilderment, .haughtiness, spite, fanaticism, victory of lust and low desires, and so on

With this Islamic analysis which we have read in the Qur'anic texts and Imam Ali's sermons, we are able to know that the pre-Islamic society

p: ١١

is the one which refuses to believe in Allah and deviates in its behavior and life system from Allah's right path, irrespective of being an ignorant society like the Bedouins and pastorals or being a society which lives in the age of the atom, computer, space .travel, etc

Jahiliyah' is a civil situation having behavioral, psychological, and physical elements.`

It has no relation to the degree of science and knowledge existing in the society. It is :just as Imam Ali (a.s) says

".The worst religion; and the worst house"

Whenever this mark of evil and corruption, is found in faith, the social system and the method of life, then we are able to call the person who lives in its shade as ignorant .'`jahil', and we are able to describe the human life following it as `jahiliyah

For this reason, the Holy Qur'an calls the deviated person, `dhal' (one who has gone astray), and those who deviate `dhaloon'. `Dhal' is the person who does not know the way and blunders far away from the truth and guidance whether in his thinking and .faith or in his worship, life system, and way of his dealings

Describing the ignorant life and society, Imam Ali (a.s) has often used the word `hayara' (bewildered) in his sermons. That is because bewilderment, worry, estrangement, uneasiness, etc., are the most prominent morbid symptoms from which the ignorant person suffers. All these diseases hit him because he is deviated .from Allah's path and His law

Thus estrangement, bewilderment, going astray, and uneasiness

p: ۱۲

are the distinguishing and essential marks of the ignorant society which is full of .vanity, oppression, corruption, and low desires

Islam has shown that the ignorant person is deviated, lost, bewildered and restless, for such a person suffers from mental disorders. This condition has an influence on all .aspects of his life

So, man finds himself standing before two ways in every period or age. These two ways are: ۱) The way of guidance and belief; and, ۲) The way of ignorance and .misguidance

:The Qur'an highlights this in the following verse

Is it then the judgment of (the times of) ignorance that they desire? And who is" (better than Allah to judge for a people who are sure?" Holy Qur'an (۵:۵۰

:Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (a.s) has stated

Judgment is two kinds: the judgment of Allah, the Great and Almighty, and the" judgment of the people of ignorance `Jahiliyah'. So, whoever misses Allah's judgment, surely will judge according to the judgment of `Jahiliyah'." To give man a clear idea of the aims and purposes which Islam strives to achieve, the Qur'an tells :him about these aims and purposes

And thus did We reveal to you an inspired book by Our command. You did not know " what the Book was, nor (what) the faith (was), but We made it a light, guiding thereby (whom We please of Our servants;"Holy Qur'an (۴۲:۵۲

and We have revealed the Book to you explaining clearly everything, and a --" (guidance and mercy and good news for those who submit." Holy Qur'an (۱۶:۸۹

The Qur'an

also describes the faithful believers, those who follow the way of faith and know the right path. It has shown that they are guided aright and live in safety, security, and :peace

Those who believe and mix not up their faith with iniquity -those are they for whom is" (security and they are (the ones) guided aright." Holy Qur'an (۶:۸۳

That is because they have believed in Allah and the light that has come from Him. They have followed the way of righteousness and have not mixed their belief with oppression nor deviated from Allah's path and His `shari'ah'. Rather they have conformed to Allah's laws, commands and teachings. Therefore, they are rightly .guided, safe, and happy here and in the Hereafter

Unlike the true believers, those who have led themselves towards error, deviation

and misguidance and turned away from Allah's remembrance have turned their lives :into an inferno and a torment. The Qur'an describes their life and end as follows

And whoever turns away from My reminder, his shall be a straitened life, and We will" raise him on the day of resurrection, blind. He shall say: My Lord! why hast Thou raised me blind and I was a seeing one indeed?. He will say: Even so, Our communications came to you but you neglected them; even thus shall you be forsaken this day". Holy (Qur'an (۲۰:۱۲۴-۱۲۶

Because of their turning away from Allah's remembrance, refusing and disobeying the true will, they have gone astray. They have blundered in the darkness of ignorance

p: ۱۴

:and deviation. Allah, the Exalted, says

and whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger, he surely strays off a manifest..." (straying". Holy Qur'an (۳۳:۳۶

Have you then considered him who takes his low desire for his god, and Allah has" made him err having knowledge and has set a seal upon his ear and his heart and put a covering upon his eye. Who can then guide him after Allah? Will you not then be (mindful?" Holy Qur'an (۴۵:۲۳

So, this is the reality of `jahiliyah', i.e., deviation from the religion of Allah, refusing His message, disobeying His Apostles, adoring lusts and temptations, and obeying the tyrants and the aggressors. Finally, if we study similar ideas of ignorant life, we will :reach the following conclusions

Jahiliyah' (Global ignorance) was a social disease. It was a psychological state` afflicting individuals, peoples, and nations in each period and generation. The aspects of this ignorant life are quite similar regardless of time and place. Allah, the Exalted, :says

(There is a disease in their hearts, so Allah added to their disease..." Holy Qur'an (۲:۱۰"

And those who have no knowledge say: Why does not Allah speak to us or a sign" come to us? Even thus said those before them, the like of what they say; their hearts are all alike. Indeed we have made the communications clear for a people who are (sure". Holy Qur'an (٢:١١٨

The evidence to this similarity is the long history of mankind, the succession of nations and offspring's, the appearance of the symptoms of the

p: ١٥

ignorant life in many generations and nations in each period of history, and the .deviation from the right path and the call to guidance and the Prophets

On the pages of history and life's stage, we see standing examples belonging to the past and present life of mankind-we see atheism, oppression, tyranny, terrorism, blood shedding, loss of truth, persecution of the oppressed, exploiting the poor and .widespread vices

These are the reflections of the ignorant current on the life of mankind. This current .represents deviation from the truth, justice, belief

Consequently, bewilderment, going astray, and deviation from the straight path are the most important marks of `Jahiliyah' from which man suffered too much crises and .endured their pains

Islam and Jahiliyah

Accordingly, `jahiliyah' is a concept and a civilization. Besides, it is a mark with which we can differentiate the enemies of Islam through their different philosophical, mental ideologies and their various schools and social systems in each period and .generation in history

Whoever does not follow Islam, nor believes in it, nor conveys its message and the system of its life and call is ignorant and misguided even if he becomes changeable, .pretends, practices hypocrisy, and uses misleading slogans

The civil and historical fact is a clear evidence of the existence of two opposite blocs throughout history and presentation of human life- its past, its present and its future. These are: the bloc of faith and monotheism and the bloc of deviation, misguidance .'and global ignorance `jahiliyah

:Prophet Muhammad (saw) was truthful when he said

Verily, there“

p: ۱۶

”.are two ways-the good way, and the evil way

When we consider carefully the life of Allah's Messenger (saw), and his holy struggle `jihad', we understand that he used this slogan against the `jahiliyah' (ignorance) of his time. He also wanted this slogan to be the slogan of the whole humanity after him .just as it was the slogan of the Prophets and the Apostles before him

The Prophet (saw) conformed to this slogan truthfully both on the theoretical and practical levels. Concerning the theoretical level, he presented to mankind the most .wonderful and greatest message and ideology

He also presented the best law and the most accurate, miraculous Divine system. This system is distinguished by justice, mercy, and equality. It responds to instinctive law and sound mental logic which aims to free mankind, destroy all ignorant slogans, and demolishes their concepts, faiths, fables, and customs. Furthermore, this system aims .to uproot all these bad backgrounds to create a social and ideological change

On the practical level, Allah's Messenger (saw) firmly began to demolish the foundations of the ignorant society in order to establish the foundations of the happy .Islamic society

He wanted Islam to prevail in that society and to make one unified Muslim nation, free from the ignorant marks in thinking, faith, law, morals, worship, and general human .dealings

The Holy Qur'an has continued to take care of this Prophetic construction and to support it with awareness and spiritual lawful maintenance to stress the importance of this Islamic line and protect its

p: ۱۷

originality and purity from the ignorant ideas which may come into the pure Islamic .life

So, Allah has addressed His great Prophet by telling him about those devious persons who try to demolish this marvelous Islamic construction and distort its originality and :purity: Allah, the Exalted, says

Have you not seen those who assert that they believe in what has been revealed to" you and what was revealed before you? They desire to summon one another to the judgment of the Shaitan, though they were commanded to deny him..." .Holy Qur'an ((۴:۶۰

Allah revealed the address and the warning to his great Prophet to fix the originality of the Islamic life and concentrate its independence. In the meantime, Allah focused on carrying out a mental, lawful, practical unity to show the Muslims that the system of their life, the system of their judgment, and the way of their worship are clear in their .religion

So, they must not resort to the tyrants to make them laws, regulations, and beliefs. That is because the tyrants deviate and mislead the Muslims from their faith and the .way of their thinking

The Holy Qur'an went on stressing to the Prophet (saw) to make him practice the process of application, construction, and social reform based on Islamic foundations. .It showed him how to complete and perfect this construction

So, it addressed him condemning the deviation of some people and their cleaving to .the ideas of `jahiliyah' and its judgment and laws

Thus, the main aim is to denote clearly

the features of the two ways- the way of `jahiliyah' (global ignorance) and the way of Islam-and also to make the Muslim know that human history, everywhere and every time, follows two lines opposite to each other in aims and motives. Besides, human conflict goes around two axes opposite in their trends and different in their contents .and purposes

These two axes are Islam and `jahiliyah'. Furthermore, a Muslim should know that all different titles and slogans such as schools of thought, calls to act, philosophies and theories, which appeared throughout the history of mankind, including contemporary .'ones or those that may appear in the future are none other than `jahiliyah

All these are only various sides and recurring forms of the conflict which go on between `jahiliyah' (global ignorance) and belief represented by Islam, the religion of .all Prophets and mankind

For this reason, the religious Muslim person should know the nature of the conflict between `jahiliyah' and Islam, and not be cheated when the names and titles are .changed, for they are different forms for one ignorant fact

Also he must regard the dissidents of Islam as ignorant persons repeating the `jahiliyah' (ignorance) of the ancient nations and peoples in new created titles and .forms

Essential Centers

point

If we carefully study the patterns of `jahiliyah' life throughout history, we find that `jahiliyah' society has many morbid symptoms and phenomena, from which the lights .of belief, religion and guidance have been extinguished

Also we discover the main centers on which human and social

construction of the ignorant societies stand. These basic centers can be summed up :as follows

Ideological Deviation .١

The history of civilizations and their ideology, throughout the stages of the `jahiliyah' life, tell us that there is an ideological abnormality and deviation from the faith of .monotheism

This problem is regarded as the basic center and general rule for all ignorant beliefs beginning from the ancient nations, mentioned by the Holy Qur'an and ending with .the ignorance of Arabs, Greeks, and including our modern, material civilization

Therefore, man, in these ignorant societies, is abnormal and deviated in his thinking, understanding, and even in his explanation of existence and life. This ignorant man always thinks about material things, while he refuses moral and spiritual values. That .is because ignorant thinking concerning the universe and life is simple and primitive

This kind of thinking has made ignorant societies unable to recognize the existence of Allah and believe in His Apostles. Also this material thinking has made them unable to believe in One Allah, having perfect attributes and being far above the qualities of the .created world

Therefore, these ignorant societies turn to inactivity, refusing belief in the Creator, and believing in primitive images as idols to be worshipped instead of Allah. These images take on the cloak of godhood in these societies, and all morals are based upon .satisfying the requirements of these images

Emotional and Psychological Deviation .٢

Throughout its different periods, `jahiliyah' (global ignorance) stood on devious emotional and psychological principles. That is because the pure innate and sound psychological trends do not

accept abnormality and deviation. Rather they accept the idea of righteousness and .behavioral balance, and they help belief to flourish

However, an ill and complicated personality always inclines towards straying from the line of psychological righteousness and balance which belief follows. So, the corrupt personality, which suffers from schizophrenia and weak will, or the personality which suffers from self-conceit, spite, haughtiness, selfishness, and sexual perversion always follows the ignorant system to express its ill complexes and psychological .deviation. The Holy Qur'an often speaks about this ill personality

It analyses its construction and depicts its inner content to make man aware and to teach social understanding which, in turn, make him avoid falling into this deep abyss. :Allah, the Exalted, says

There is a disease in their hearts, so Allah added to their disease and they shall have" (a painful chastisement because they lied". Holy Qur'an (٢:١٠

And they denied them unjustly and proudly while their soul had been convinced of" (them; consider, then how was the end of the mischief-makers". Holy Qur'an (٢٧:١۴

Through its diagnosis and analysis, the Qur'an points to the place of the illness and the starting point of the deviation bringing about a `jahiliyah' in various stages of man's evolution. It is emotional deviation and psychological disease from which the `jahili' .(ignorant) person suffers

He turns away from truth and guidance because of the influence of this disease. Although the truth is clear, the ignorant person refuses it and tries to get rid of the rules of psychological righteousness and rational beliefs

.and behavior

Imam Ali (a.s) deeply analyses and describes this ill, ignorant, immoral and

psychological situation by saying: “Desires had deflected them and self-conceit had swerved them. Extreme ignorance had made them foolish.” “The sons of vanity, the ”.brothers of fanaticism, and the horsemen of ignorance proved him to be true

So, they put out what was hidden in their hearts from the fires of fanaticism and the“ spites of ignorance.” Consequently, in every period and generation, `jahiliyah' (global ignorance) is distinguished by fanaticism, haughtiness, deviation, and psychological .and moral abnormality

Behavioral Deviation .۳

Among the basic center which contributes in creating and distinguishing the `jahiliyah' society and individual is the state of behavioral abnormality and deviation. Deviation from righteousness and absorption in abnormal practices and habits are the most .prominent marks among all ignorant societies

In addition, these habits are the most visible social forms which show deviant, ignorant content. In our time we see marital and child abuse, child pornography, drug addiction, alcoholism, prostitution, homosexuality, political oppression and arrogance, .'and the coveting of wealth and power as signs of our modern day `jahiliyah

The Qur'an speaks about this ignorant deviation by unveiling this common feature :among all ignorant societies. It says

So surely those who are unjust shall have a portion like the portion of their: (companions, therefore let them not ask Me to hasten on”. Holy Qur'an (۵۱:۵۹

Soon will I (allow to) turn away from my signs those (who) unjustly are proud in the“ earth; while (even) if they see all the signs they

p: ۲۲

will not believe in it; and (even) if they see the right way, they will not adopt it for a way; and if they see the way of error, they will adopt it for a way; this is because they (belied Our signs and were heedless of them.” Holy Qur'an (۶:۱۴۶

and hinder (others) from the path of Allah and seek it to be crooked; these are in ..."
(error far away (from the right path)." Holy Qur'an (۱۴:۳

So the roots of the people who were unjust were cut off; and all praise is due to"
(Allah, the Lord of the worlds." Holy Qur'an (۶:۴۵

In this manner, the devious behavioral society is constructed and is a distinguishing mark of the ignorant individual throughout different periods and the succession of his .generations until Allah inherits the earth and what is on it

In other words, everywhere and every time the ignorant person plays, corrupts, commits crimes, spreads ruin and destruction, goes deeply into evil, and scorns all human values and life principles without any concern or sanction, he is guilty of .'`jahiliyah

This ignorant person reaches this definite, inescapable result because he feels no sense of responsibility to the Almighty, Just Creator, and refuses to believe in the .reward and punishment due on the Day of Judgment

The Results of Ignorant Deviation

Throughout history, mankind has been the scapegoat and the victim of ignorant deviation in his life. Mankind is responsible for the sins of its crimes and the results of .its deviation

The Qur'an refers to this fact and

p: ۲۳

explains the results of such deviation and ignorant corruption which despoils life and :turns it into an inferno and torture. Allah, the Exalted, says

(O mankind! your rebellion is against your own selves,..." Holy Qur'an (۱۰:۲۳ ..."

Mischief has appeared in the land and the sea on account of what the hands of" people have wrought, that He may make them taste a part of what they have done,

(so that they may turn (away from evil)." Holy Qur'an (۳۰:۴۱

The Qur'an has given this warning and shown the danger of it in order to urge man to resist `jahiliyah' and face its crimes and deviation so that each person will be able to play his role and shoulder his responsibility in resisting jahiliyah and defending the will .of life and the welfare of mankind

Ignorant regimes like communism, capitalism, existentialism, racism, etc., and their corrupt influences on man are clear evidences of man's sufferings and misery. A :closer look at the past and present history of `jahiliyah'; will show

The prevalence of materialism, and the absence of rational thought, which rises .۱ above material things and greedy selfishness and self-interest and balances the moral, material, and spiritual powers of man, respecting the interests of others, and .honoring their rights in life

This stonehearted material current has led to the death of moral values and victory for the opportunist selfish criteria. It has deadened the conscience of man and made .him lazy in his awareness and sensitivity

The appearance of conflict and crimes among men instead .۲

p: ۲۴

of love, peace, agreement, and cooperation. Chaos and social alienation have replaced stability, moral discipline, and balanced law. Thus, life becomes a jungle of conflict and an oasis of blood, hidden behind the bars of oppression, terrorism, and .deviation

The analysis of Imam Ali (a.s) for this awful phenomenon in the ignorant life is very accurate when he said: "And idols were worshipped, kinship was disregarded, and raids were made." "In vices which trampled the people under their hoofs, and trod upon them with their feet, and stood on their toes." "You ate filthy food. You shed "blood of each other, and you disregarded your kinship

So, this phenomenon of wars, destruction, and bloodshed, is the great common trait among all ignorant societies of the earth. And it is the terrible matter from which the :angels asked in astonishment

will You (O Our Lord) appoint therein one who will cause mischief and shed blood..." ..." (Holy Qur'an (۲:۳۰

The modern materialistic `jahiliyah' sheds more blood than in the past. We have the ."power of mass death and destruction to the point of "overkill

We have learned and used the most diabolic methods of torture, murder, cannibalism, sexual perversity, violent crimes, and abuse. For this reason, peace has disappeared .from the earth and the beating of peace and love has stopped in every heart

۳. -The collapse of the individual's personality, and the absence of personal sanction :the death of the human conscience-which the Qur'an describes through its words

Thenceforth were your hearts hardened as stones or harder"

(still..." Holy Qur'an (۲:۷۴

When the conscience has died, human feeling has also disappeared along with the .feeling of sympathy, justice and responsibility toward the humanity of others

Thus, man has withdrawn into the darkness far away from the circle of light. He has lost the criteria, dispelled the will of good, mixed the values, and refused guidance and .awareness

These definite results of the `jahiliyah' trends, which man has reached, are the bitter results caused by deviation and distance from the straight path of Allah and the call of .the Prophets

They are the results about which the Qur'an speaks and has put man face to face with them in order that he may know his responsibility and choose his role in life. The

Qur'an describes these results as oppression, crimes, tyranny, going astray, :deviation, cruelty, and animalistic. It says

(but they behaved haughtily and they were a guilty people." Holy Qur'an (۷:۱۳۳..."

while (even) if they see the right way they will not adopt it for a way..." Holy Qur'an ..." ((۷:۱۴۶

(and if they see the way of error, they will take it for a way..." Holy Qur'an (۷:۱۴۶ ..."

who went astray before and led many astray and went astray from the right..." (path".Holy Qur'an (۵:۷۷

Corruption has appeared in the land and the sea on account of what the hands of" (men have wrought..." Holy Qur'an (۳۰:۴۱

and We did them no injustice, but they were unjust to themselves". Holy Qur'an..." ((۱۶:۱۱۸

When the Qur'an places these facts before man and describes for him

such phenomena, it wants him to rise against his ignorant reality and change the form of life and civilization so that he will be able to build his life according to the guidance .of belief and his society according to its rules and message

This process begins by building his personality and changing his own psychological .content

?How can we get rid of ignorant backgrounds

Generally, nations and peoples suffer from deep-rooted pagan `jahiliyah', which is regarded as the most dangerous one in history. It is the source of ignorant thoughts .and the ill deviations from which the ancient nations suffered

Today, the disease of ignorance and phenomena that afflicts the different nations

and cause them to live in the ugliest scenarios in modern material civilization. In other words, modern man naturally and usually practices unbelief, atheism, moral corruption, oppression, aggression, greed, domination, exploitation, wars, .destruction, and social chaos

Even the Muslims, who believe in Islam, are forced or satisfied to follow these ignorant currents and decline into their deep abysses with the exception of those true believers who have understood this destructive danger, and who avoided it and .refused to follow it

Therefore, if we analyze society and its modern civilization, we will be able to divide :both the individuals and their societies into three parts

An ignorant society whose life embodies all ignorant aspects such as communism, .١ .capitalism, materialism, deviated religions, idol worship...etc

Society in which individuals believe in Islam, but do not embody its beliefs in their .٢ lives nor apply it to their actions. Their

p: ٢٧

society is also deviated and lost. It has no Islamic identity nor does it represent the original ideology. It imitates others in laws, art, literature, concepts, and method of life, in a manner which makes the social aspects and the form of general life similar to .the ignorant form and the lost life which does not know originality and discipline

Therefore, in such a society, it is usual to see nightclubs, bars, dissolute women, prostitution houses, usury banks, the system of the material life, the patterns of art, .and the kinds of material culture, immoral literature, etc

The faithful individuals who conform to Islamic beliefs, but are too few to form a .٣ social current to enable them to change the regime of life and mark Islam on the personality of the civilization stand apart and isolated in their society. They are .deprived of the legitimate benefits of a healthy society

Therefore, the total application and the full conforming to Islam, as a faith, a way of life, law, and behavior in order to achieve the sincere worship for Allah, the Glorified, .are not naturally applied in the life of our societies nor embodied in our public life

For this reason, in our life, concepts, behavior, regime, and laws, there are many ignorant foundations and non-Islamic concepts which came to us from both Eastern and Western ignorant and material thoughts. Such thoughts feed our own thoughts, .our life, and our concepts

Regarding this cultural invasion and influence, Muslims should sincerely do their best and devote

their efforts in order to make essential changes, uproot `jahiliyah' (global ignorance) .and demolish its rules and pillars

Therefore, Muslims should build their personalities and their society according to Islamic values, ideas, and principles. The following Qur'anic verse should be their :example in life

And from among you there should be a party who invite to good and enjoin what is" (right and forbid the wrong, and these it is that shall be successful."Holy Qur'an (۳:۱۰۴

The Methods of Salvation

To save a Muslim from spreading the infection of `jahiliyah' and to help Muslims uproot its foundations in their society and civilization, and to achieve prevention and fortification against foreign, civil, and mental invasions, it is necessary for them to :follow the following steps

Achieving a full understanding for life according to original Islamic methods so that .۱ :a Muslim knows the value of his life. He should ask himself

?What does existence in life mean

?What is the value of all beings with whom I deal

?How should my psychological relation be with life

?And how do I organize my relations in it

A Muslim should consider these questions and take them into account in order to build his life on original Islamic teachings. Islam will guide him in all aspects including his .possessions, rule, power, fame, life, death, pleasure, pain, and the human relations

These teachings differ completely from an ignorant understanding and its material .viewpoint towards things, the world, and life

Therefore, the first step to get rid of ignorant concepts is to achieve an aware understanding of

existence and life on the basis of Islam and to make a general, psychological change to turn ignorant awareness and understanding, entering our societies, into a believing mental system and believing civil awareness which revolves around the axis of .servitude to Allah, sincere loyalty to Him, and going directly toward Him

When a Muslim understands the meaning of life and its value, and recognizes the same right in it for others on the basis of these values and principles, he will see that all aspects of misery and aggression on the earth, such as poverty, aggression, terrorism, corruption, exploitation, enslavement, vanity, haughtiness, making light of .man's values and rights, will disappear. Man will live a life of purity and dignity

After this understanding is achieved, the reconstruction of both the Muslim's .۲ personality and the society will fit together. It will cause the purification of the conscience and awareness of a Muslim against ignorant backgrounds and motives hidden in his depths, so that he may achieve the reconstruction and reorganization of the human personality from its inner side on the basis of sound, Islamic .understanding

Thus, a Muslim will become honest, self-purified, a lover of good, ready to practice the .Islamic life, and ready to accept its teaching

The third method of uprooting ignorant backgrounds is to establish an Islamic .٣ society which unifies its individuals within the framework of an organized human unity full of believing spirit and truthful, believing direction and in which a Muslim will practice Islam as a living

p: ٣٠

fact and as a social system, thought, behavior, life, and pure servitude to Allah only under the shade of a lawful authority which believes in Islam and stands on its principles in order to build the society with its foundations, activities, and the aspects .of life based on original Islamic rules

With this method, we are able to get rid of ignorant backgrounds and keep the course .of the Muslim individual and society within the boundaries of Islam

However, if we are satisfied with mere theoretic belief, while all, or most, of our behavior, life system, dealings, and laws of our society are far and deviated from Islam, we will not achieve full belief nor raise ourselves to the level of true Islam as .Allah desires for us

Rather our belief will bend toward `jahiliyah' and servitude at random, though many .of us do not feel this contrast, duplicity, and collapse

The Nature of Conflict between Jahiliyah and Islam

:The real meaning of `jahiliyah' is

".Refusing the obedience of Allah and deviation from the system of religion"

:While Islam means

The surrendering and obedience to Allah's cosmic order, and conforming to His" ".system of religion in life

We have to know that the conflict between various ignorant ideologies and Islam-the religion of prophets and mankind-is permanent and continuous. We have to be aware that they are two opposite facts, and have been so since the beginning of human history and will continue to be so until the disappearance of the torch of life from the .earth

This conflict will continue and take various

p: ٣١

forms and slogans, but it will last as a conflict between guidance and misguidance, .truth and falsehood, justice and injustice, and between righteousness and corruption

This conflict is the conflict of oppositions in the theater of thought and society. It is the .`jihad' (holy struggle) of goodness against the call of evil and deviation

Throughout human history, prophets and the faithful have recorded wonderful chapters in it. With strength and enthusiasm they faced the might of tyrants, rulers .and the callers to deviation and misguidance who are the true enemies of all mankind

These wonderful attitudes of `jihad' are living phenomena of the law regarding :human conflict and change which is described by the Qur'an as follows

And were it not for Allah's repelling some men with others, the earth would certainly" (be in a state of disorder; but Allah is Gracious to the creatures."Holy Qur'an (٢:٢٥١

and had repelled not Allah some people by others, verily had been pulled down the ..." cloisters and the churches and the synagogues, and the mosques in which Allah's name is much mentioned; and verily Allah will help him who helps Him (His cause); for (verily Allah is All-Strong, Almighty." Holy Qur'an (٢١:۴٠

This is the law of life, the logic of history, and the law of events and change. On the basis of these facts, the bloody fights of conflict happened, and the events of history .were written

So, each party of this conflict has taken its portion and shouldered its responsibility. In

this connection, Allah, the

p: ۳۲

:Exalted, says

All) people are a single nation; so Allah raised prophets as bearers of good news and)“ as warners, and He revealed with them the Book with truth, that it might judge between people in that in which they differed; and none but the very people who were given it differed about it after clear arguments had come to them, revolting among themselves; so Allah has guided by His will those who believe to the truth about which they differed and Allah guides whom He pleases to the right path.”Holy (Qur'an (۲:۲۱۳

Whoever follows the Qur'an's descriptions of the nature of conflict and how it pictures the scenes of rebellion against the prophets, and tells about the battles which were waged against the prophets and who reads how Qur'an honors the followers who believed in truth and the message of Allah, who defended truth in `jihad' against the callers to `jahiliyah', oppression and despotism, will be able to identify and recognize the conflict and that its confrontation and `jihad', followed by the believers in Allah's religion and the truth of His prophets is the only way to pursue the enemy's .annihilation

It is the way which must be followed by the callers to Islam. This conflict is the continuity of the line of the believing, brave confrontation against the callers to .'apostasy and `jahiliyah

Whoever chooses the way of prophets and calls to Islam should accept what the .prophets accepted and should endure what they endured

How wonderful the true words of Allah

p: ۳۳

are! They simplify this plain truth and explain to us the experience of the conflict and

:the difficult test which lies before us

Or do you think that you would enter the garden while yet the state of those who" have passed away before you has not come upon you; distress and affliction befell them and they were shaken violently, so that the Messenger and those who believed with him said: When will the help of Allah come? Now surely the help of Allah is nigh!"
(Holy Qur'an (۲:۲۱۴

Alif Lam Mim. Do men think that they will be left alone on saying, We believe, and not" be tried? And certainly We tried those before them, so Allah will certainly know those (who are true and He will certainly know the liars." Holy Qur'an (۲۹:۱-۳

Conflict and the Divine trial are necessities in order to discover the extent of truthfulness and sincerity in the heart of the faithful believer and his belief in the .Divine message in his life

Furthermore, this conflict is a historical phenomenon which takes place according to .the laws of action and reaction and social change

.Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds

p: ۳۴

About center

In the name of Allah

هَلْيَسْتَوِيالَّذِينَيَعْلَمُونَوَالَّذِينَلَايَعْلَمُونَ

?Are those who know equal to those who do not know

al-Zumar: ۹

:Introduction

Ghaemiyeh Computer Research Institute of Isfahan, from ۲۰۰۷, under the authority of Ayatollah Haj SayyedHasanFaqihImami (God blesses his soul), by sincere and daily efforts of university and seminary elites and sophisticated groups began its activities

.in religious, cultural and scientific fields

:Manifesto

Ghaemiyeh Computer Research Institute of Isfahan in order to facilitate and accelerate the accessibility of researchers to the books and tools of research, in the field of Islamic science, and regarding the multiplicity and dispersion of active centers in this field

and numerous and inaccessible sources by a mere scientific intention and far from any kind of social, political, tribal and personal prejudices and currents, based on performing a project in the shape of (management of produced and published works from all Shia centers) tries to provide a rich and free collection of books and research papers for the experts, and helpful contents and discussions for the educated generation and all classes of people interested in reading, with various formats in the .cyberspace

:Our Goals are

(propagating the culture and teachings of Thaqalayn (Quran and Ahlulbayt p.b.u.t-

encouraging the populace particularly the youth in investigating the religious issues-

replacing useful contents with useless ones in the cellphones, tablets and computers-

providing services for seminary and university researchers-

spreading culture study in the publich-

paving the way for the publications and authors to digitize their works-

:Policies

acting according to the legal licenses-

relationship with similar centers-

avoiding parallel working-

merely presenting scientific contents-

mentioning the sources-

.It's obvious that all the responsibilities are due to the author

:Other activities of the institute

Publication of books, booklets and other editions-

-Holding book reading competitions

-Producing virtual, three dimensional exhibitions, panoramas of religious and tourism places

-Producing animations, computer games and etc.

-Launching the website with this address: www.ghaemiyeh.com

-Fabricatingdramatic and speech works

-Launching the system of answering religious, ethical and doctrinal questions

-Designing systems of accounting, media and mobile, automatic and handy systems, web kiosks

-Holding virtual educational courses for the public

-Holding virtual teacher-training courses

-Producing thousands of research software in three languages (Persian, Arabic and English) which can be performed in computers, tablets and cellphones and available and downloadable with eight international formats: JAVA, ANDROID, EPUB, CHM, PDF, HTML, CHM, GHB on the website

-Also producing four markets named "Ghaemiyeh Book Market" with Android, IOS, WINDOWS PHONE and WINDOWS editions

Appreciation:

We would appreciate the centers, institutes, publications, authors and all honorable friends who contributed their help and data to us to reach the holy goal we follow.

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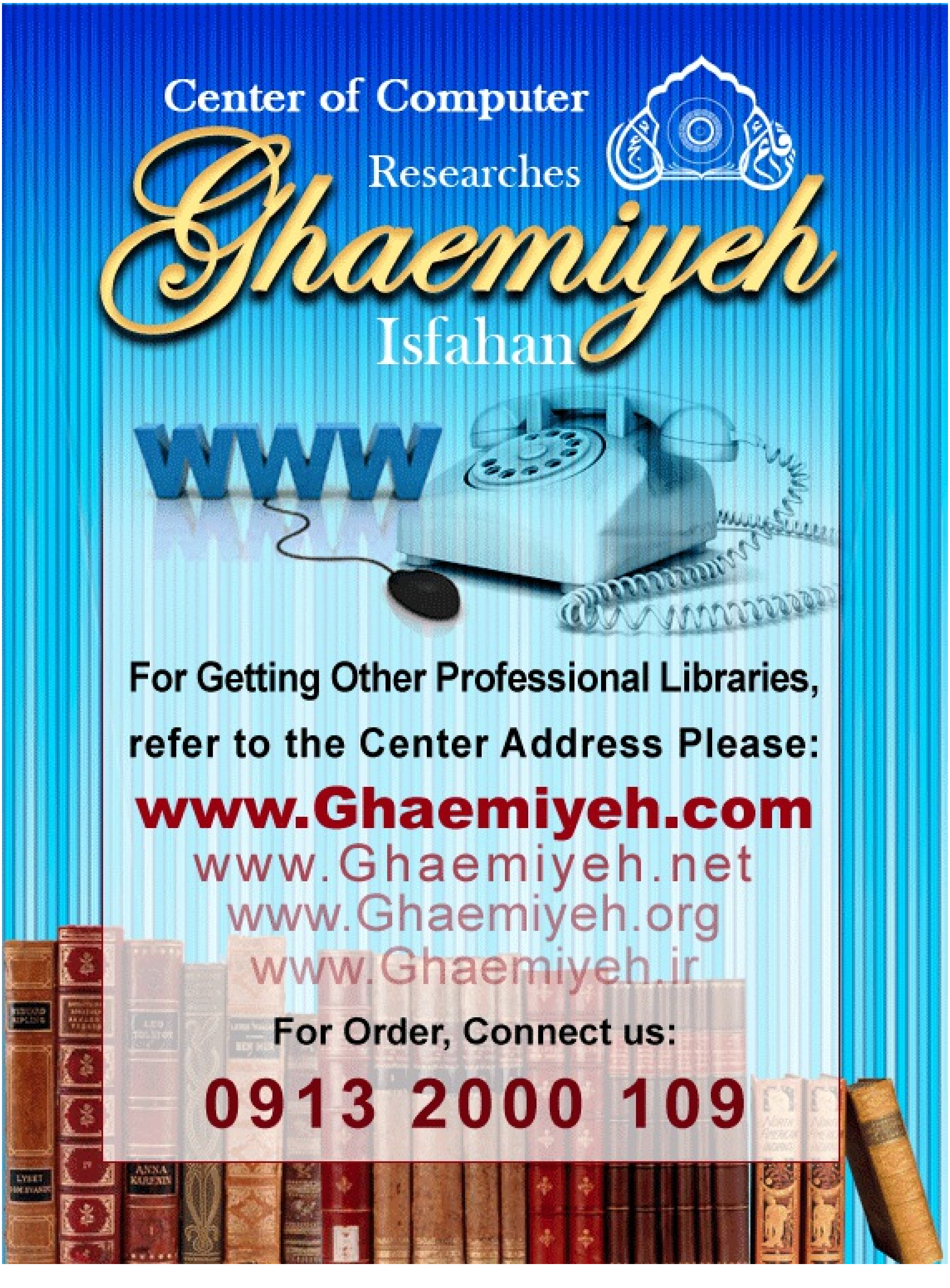
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